

C O M M O D O R E  
PET USERS' CLUB NEWSLETTER  
ISSUES 1 and 2

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INDEX

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
1.	Would you like to be a PET VET?
2.	The Master Library and The Common Library
3.	Master Library Listing
4.	Common Library Listing
5.	6502 Journal and Computabits
6.	LP Enterprises Booklist
7.	Corrections to the Commodore "PET Computer User Handbook"
8.	IEEE Information
9.	Attaching a Video Monitor to PET
10.	Delays
11.	Plotting
12.	Inputting
13.	Data File Errors
14..	Tape Head Care
15.	Useful Machine Addresses
17.	PET Memory Map
20.	Machine Code Environment
22.	"Life" For Your PET.
33.	Your Letters
36.	R. Bailey & Associates - retail price list - serial interfaces
37.	Petsoft - Software price list

COMMODORE PET USERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Commodore would like to apologise for the delay in producing the No. 1 Newsletter. We decided to combine numbers 1 and 2 in one bumper issue!

If you would like a copy of issue number 0 (APRIL) you may elect to back date your membership to a particular issue such as this. If so please write and advise us. Your membership will be adjusted accordingly and any relevant issues will be forwarded to you.

Included at the back of this issue are details of products marketed by non-Commodore companies which may be of interest to you. The inclusion in our newsletter is neither a recommendation or otherwise but are included as items of interest to PET users.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PET VET?

Commodore Systems are looking for a bright young engineer to assist with servicing PETs and also after some instruction field some technical enquiries. The ideal person would be aged between 18 and 21 and have some practical experience with and good theoretical knowledge of 6800 type microprocessors.

If you are interested please get in touch with:

- Commodore Systems,  
360 Euston Road,  
London. NW1.  
Tel. 388 5702.

As Commodore Systems is growing rapidly vacancies may occur for other technical, software and sales personnel. If you would be interested in working with PET at a future date please send us a curriculum vitae and we will hold it on our files - confidentiality respected.

## THE MASTER LIBRARY and

## THE COMMON LIBRARY

There has been a little confusion regarding what you get when you submit a tape to Commodore. What happens is as follows: If your program is judged to be of high enough quality and general interest, you will receive the sum of £25.-, your program will be entered into the official Commodore MASTER LIBRARY and becomes the sole property of Commodore. If the program is accepted but not suitable for the MASTER LIBRARY, you will receive a form enabling you to request up to four programs from, and your program will be entered into the Users Club COMMON LIBRARY. If you wish to purchase programs from the COMMON LIBRARY directly a charge of £1.25 is made per program with a minimum order value of £5.- (postage and packing inc.) Commodore will not return any cassettes submitted so please make sure you have a copy. Programs submitted to Commodore must be fully documented on tape. This means that anybody wishing to use this program must be able to do so from loading and running the program only, not from any instruction sheet.

**Commodore Systems Division**

360 Euston Road, London NW1 3BL  
Telephone 01-388 5702

Official Price List (April 1978)

<u>Hardware</u>	<u>Retail Exc. VAT</u>	<u>Retail Inc. VAT</u>
PET 2001-8 Personal Computer	£643.52	£695.00
PET 2nd Cassette Deck (June release)	55.00	59.40
PET 2020 Printer (Aug. release)	425.00	459.00

Accessories (cash terms only)

PET Users Handbook	-	5.00
PET Introductory Booklet	-	1.00
6500/KIM Programming Manual	-	5.00
6500/KIM Hardware Manual	-	5.00
KIMI User Manual	-	5.00
PET Users Club Membership	-	10.00
Special C12 high quality blank cassettes (minimum quantity 10)	-	.50

MASTER LIBRARY (cash only)

Othello	Cunning game of skill. Two levels of play, you against the computer.	£ 8.00
Pontoon	Board game. True 52 card pack plus amazing graphics.	6.00
Wrap-Trap	Dynamic graphics game in which the player has to trap the computer. Good arcade quality graphics.	8.00
Noughts and Crosses	You against the computer.	3.00
Lunar Lander	First class game of skill - in real time and with the odd surprise !	8.00
Rotate	Difficult if you are not an expert ! Similar to little plastic trays with moveable letters and letter missing.	5.00
Biorhythms	Carefully written programme. Good graphics, with a real plot routine.	8.00
Disassembler	6500 series full disassembler asks for decimal starting location and lists from this point, gives full mnemonics and handles ASCII tables.	15.00
Machine Code Handler	This programme allows you to type in a list of HEX codes from a given location. These routines can then be called using the SYS verb.	3.00

PLEASE NOTE There is a minimum order value of £5.00

Planned Introductions during 1978

A floppy disc, memory expansion and modem are planned for introduction later in 1978. Additional programmes will be introduced at regular intervals including commercial, scientific and statistical programmes.

Directors: I. Gould (Chairman), J. Tramier (Managing), C. T. G. Fish, C. Spencer, R. Gleadow

Reg. Office: Industrial Estate, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. TS16 0PN Reg. in England Reg. No 956774

## SECOND CASSETTE DECKS

.... are now available if you wish to order them  
at a cost of £55.- plus VAT. (Cash with order please.)

## COMMON LIBRARY

Here is the COMMON LIBRARY listing so far:-

001	ESP TEST -	submitted by Mr. Chambers Co. Mayo Ireland
002	SLOT MACHINE	" " "
003	MASTERMIND -	Mr. McDonald - Brighton
004	MOO -	Prof. A.Colin - Univ. of Strathclyde
005	LIFE -	Mr. Wheatcroft - Watford
006	STARWARS -	Dr. Lucas - Univ. of Manchester
007	1 ARM BANDIT -	A.M. Robertson - Holland
008	DEEPSPACER -	Mr. DA Allen, Colchester Essex.
009	SOLVING SIMULTANEOUS EQUATIONS -	Prof. Colin - Univ. of Strathclyde
010	LEAST SQUARES -	Mr. Clintworth - Imperial Coll. London.
011	MEMORY DISPLAY IN HEX -	Mr. Tribe, Gwent

Minimum order four programs £5.00

each additional program is £1.25 p+p inc.

PLEASE ORDER BY PROGRAM NUMBER

## 6502 JOURNAL & COMPUTABITS

It seems that the 6500 series microprocessors are becoming so popular that they now warrant a journal of their own. 6500 series devices are used in the PET, the APPLE, OHIO SCIENTIFIC and numerous other top selling machines. This journal is called "MICRO" and has a single copy price of £1.70 and an annual subscription of £9.00 for six issues. I have had a good look at an issue myself and find it excellent. It is obtainable from The Computer Book Shop, Temple House, 43-48 New Street, Birmingham. B2.

Another excellent publication, this time home grown, is Computabits. This is a generally small systems orientated publication often carrying information about the PET and is very professionally produced. This publication is obtainable from Computabits Ltd., 41 Vincent Street, Yeovil, Somerset. Copies are 85p each. Annual subscription is £5.00 for approximately six copies.

LP ENTERPRISES are offering 5% discount to all PET USERS CLUB MEMBERS. (see list on following page).

STOP PRESS Computabits inform us that they are in a position to supply an interface board to allow the PET to drive ordinary video monitors etc. Price on application.

# L P ENTERPRISES

313 Kingston Road, Ilford,  
Essex, IG1 1PJ England.

From the representatives in Europe . . . for America's leading Micro-computer magazines and books, for the hobbyist, educationalist and professional alike, we bring you a little light reading!

## From Adam Osborne Associates

### INTRODUCTION TO MICROCOMPUTERS

Volume 0: The Beginners Book	£5.95
Volume 1: Basic Concepts	£5.95
Volume 2: Some Real Products (Revised Late 1977)	£11.95

6800 Programming for Logic Design	£5.95
8080 Programming for Logic Design	£5.95
280 Programming for Logic Design (Available March 78 approx)	£5.95
8080A/8085 Assembly Language Programming	£6.95
Some Common BASIC Programs	£5.95

### BUSINESS PROGRAMS IN BASIC

Payroll With Cost Accounting	£9.95
Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable (Available from March 78)	£9.95
General Ledger (Available Mar 78)	£9.95

### From Scelbi Computer Consulting Inc.

6800 Software Gourmet Guide & Cookbook	£7.95
8080 Software Gourmet Guide & Cookbook	£7.95
8080 Programmers Pocket Guide	£2.25
8080 Hex Code Card	£2.25
8080 Octal Code Card	£2.25
8080 Guide and One 8080 Code Card	£4.20
8080 Guide and Both Code Cards	£6.00
SCELBAL High Level Language for '8008/8080' Systems	£39.25
SCELBAL String Handling Supplement	£8.00
SCELBAL Extended Maths Supplement	£4.00
Understanding Microcomputers & Small Computer Systems	£7.95
SCELBI 'BYTE' Primer	£9.95
8080 Standard Assembler (In Book Format)	£15.95

### From Peoples Computer Company

Reference Book of Personal & Home Computing	£4.95
What to Do After You Hit Return	£7.00
Dr. Dobbs Journal Volume 1	£10.00

### \* From Kilobaud/73 Magazine Inc.

Hobby Computers Are Here	£3.95
New Hobby Computers	£3.95

### From Dymax Inc.

Instant BASIC by Jerald R. Brown	£4.95
Your Home Computer by James White	£4.95
My Computer Likes Me . . . When I Speak BASIC By Bob Albrecht	£1.65
Games With A Pocket Calculator by Thiagarajan & Stilovitch	£1.75
Games, Tricks and Puzzles For a Hand Calculator by W Judd	£2.49

### \* From BYTE Publications Inc.

Paperbytes:	
Tiny Assembler for 6800 Systems	£5.75
Bar Code Loader for 6800, 8080, 280 & 6502 Micros	£1.75
Best of BYTE Volume 1	£8.95

Price  
UK  
Price  
Overseas  
If Different

### \* From Creative Computing Press

Best of Creative Computing Volume 1	£ 6.95
Best of Creative Computing Volume 2	£ 6.95
101 BASIC Games (Revised & Reprinted Feb. 78)	£ 5.50
The Colossal Computer Cartoon Book	£ 3.95
Computer-Rage (A new Board Game)	£ 6.95
Artist and Computer	£ 3.95
Three Binary Dice	£ 1.00

### \* From Everyone Else

TV Typewriter Cookbook by Don Lancaster	£ 7.95
Magazine storage boxes (Holds 12 minimum)	£ 1.75
Sybox: Microprocessors	£ 7.95
Sybox: Microprocessor Interfacing Techniques	£ 7.95
Dilithium: Home Computers Volume 1: Hardware	£ 6.50
Dilithium: Home Computers Volume 2: Software	£ 5.95
Bugbooks: Volume 1 to 7	P.O.A.

### MAGAZINES: Back Issues

Personal Computing	£ 1.75
Interface Age	£ 2.00
Dr. Dobbs Journal	£ 1.60
Computer Music Journal	£ 2.50
Peoples Computers	£ 1.50
BYTE	£ 2.25
Creative Computing	£ 1.75
Calculators & Computers	£ 1.75
ROM	£ 1.75
Kilobaud	£ 2.25
73	£ 2.00

### MAGAZINES: Subscriptions

Personal Computing (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£16.00	£17.00
Interface Age (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£20.00	£20.50
Dr. Dobbs Journal (Ten Issues Yearly)	£13.00	£13.50
Computer Music Journal (Four Issues Yearly)	£ 8.50	£ 9.00
Peoples Computers (Six Issues Yearly)	£ 8.00	£ 8.50
Kilobaud (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£20.00	£21.00
BYTE (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£15.00	£15.00
Creative Computing (Six Issues Yearly)	£ 8.50	£ 9.00
Calculators & Computers (Seven Issues Yearly)	£10.00	£10.50
ROM (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£16.00	£17.00
73 (Twelve Issues Yearly)	£20.00	£21.00

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS PRICE LISTS: EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1978

LPE/278/VC

## HOW TO ORDER

Please note our prices include postage and packing, but not insurance, if wanted add 12p for every £10 of books ordered. Make cheques, PO's etc payable to:-

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All Orders must be Prepaid

All publications are published in U.S.A. and shipped air-freight by L.P. Enterprises. In unusual cases, processing may exceed 30 days.



## CORRECTIONS TO THE COMMODORE "PET COMPUTER USERS HANDBOOK"

Corrections should be made to the following pages of the above:-

### PAGE   LINE

- 16      3Ø NEXT IN - change to - 3Ø NEXT N
- 24      11Ø FOR I = 1 to 15 : READ A \$ (1) : NEXT 1:  
         REM READ STRINGS A \$ (I)  
                 - change to -                      NEXT I:
- 24      13Ø IF A \$ (1) = A\$ (I+1) THEN 18Ø  
                 - change to -  
                 IF A \$ (I) etc.
- 52      Delete lines 25Ø and 26Ø  
         4ØØ Place the ST outside the quotes.
- 69      1) Some BASICS use "[ "and" ]" to denote matrix  
         subscripts. PET BASIC uses "( "and" )".
- 92-      omit  
100
- 121      The address of R. Bailey Associates who supply  
         memory and interfaces for the PET should be  
         31 Bassett Road, London W1Ø and not NW1Ø.

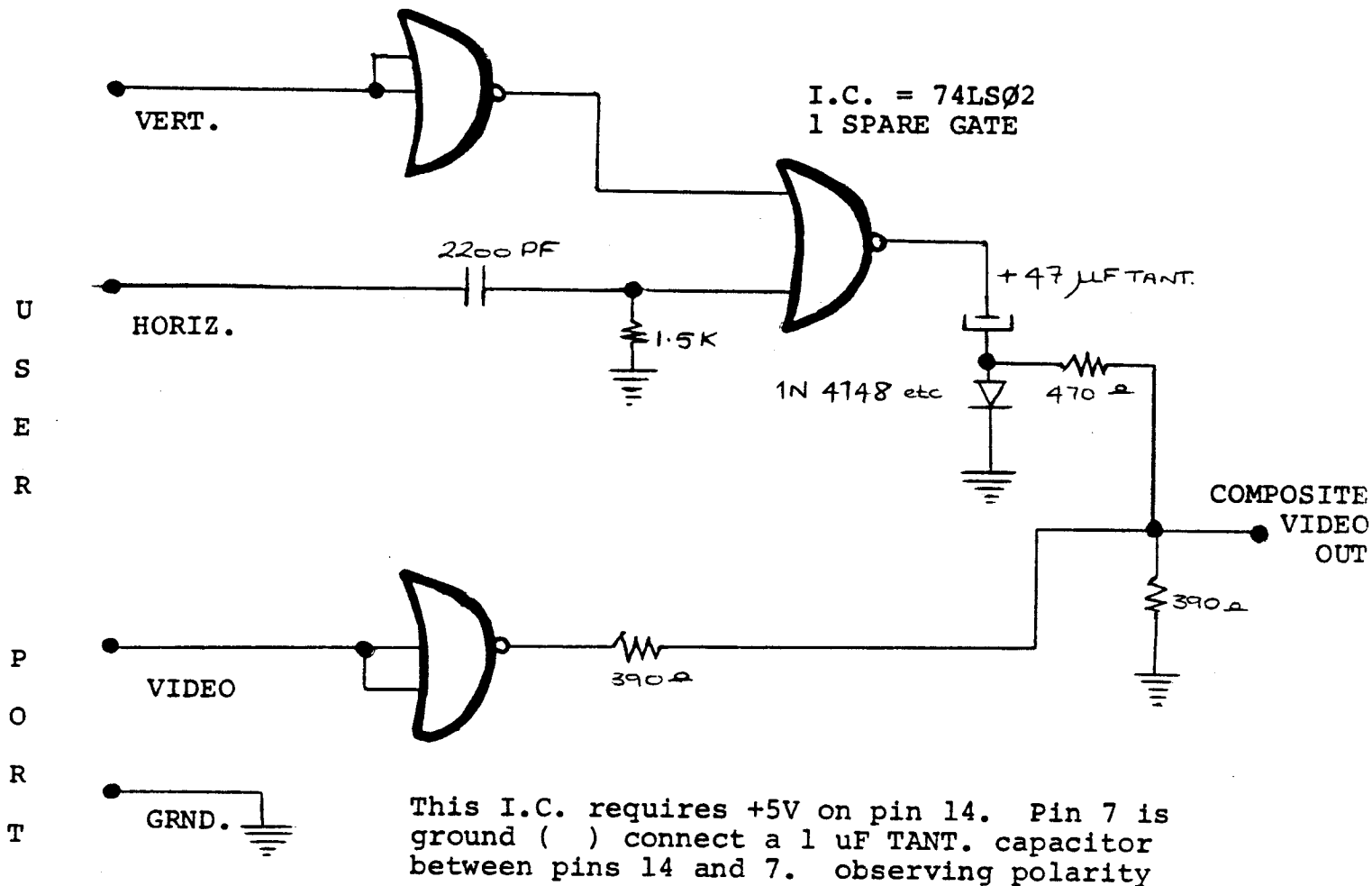
### IEEE INFORMATION

We have had many enquiries concerning the exact operation of the IEEE bus particularly concerning timing. Commodore is now making available a document generated by Hewlett Packard which describes the IEEE-488 interface bus. This is a comprehensive and readable description of the BUS. The price of this document is £2.50 including postage and packing.

(Cash with order please)

It is important to remember that Commodore has not implemented all of Hewlett Packard's suggestions. Please refer to the IEEE section of the Owners Handbook.

## ATTACHING A VIDEO MONITOR TO PET



Above is a simple circuit which takes the horizontal drive, vertical drive and video waveforms from the PET User Port and converts them to composite video suitable for driving an RF modulator or a straightforward monitor. The circuit requires a 5 volt power supply and this may be obtained from a 2nd cassette socket which has a few milliamps available at 5 volts. There are no particular points to watch out for when constructing this circuit. Lay-out is not critical. In the unlikely event of the horizontal hold of your display device misbehaving, adjust the value of the 1.5K resistor. This will alter the horizontal sync. pulse width.

## DELAYS

Quite a few people have asked how to put delays into programs. Here are two common methods:

10 FOR A = 1 to 1000 : NEXT this will cause a delay of approximately 1 second

10 FOR A = 1 to 2000 : NEXT this will cause a delay of approximately 2 seconds etc.

10 T=TI

20 IF TI - T < 60 THEN 20

Lines 10 and 20 cause a delay of approximately one second and work as follows:

Line 10 sets the variable T equal to the real time jiffy clock TI (a jiffy is 1/60 of a second)

Line 20 tests to see whether 60/60 of a second have elapsed, if not the program returns to the beginning of line 20 and checks again.

Here is a small program you might like to try which uses delays involving the real time clock in an interesting manner.

READY.

```
5 PRINT"KEY IN A NUMBER>";
10 T=0:A$=""
20 GETK$:IFK$=""THEN20
30 T=TI:GOTO60
40 GETK$
50 IF TI-T>60THEN70
60 IFK$<>""THENPRINTK$;:A$=A$+K$:T=TI:GOTO40
65 GOTO40
70 IFA=0THENPRINT"+";:A=VAL(A$):GOTO10
80 PRINT="A+VAL(A$)
READY.
```

## PLOTTING

It is possible, with very little effort, to address locations on the screen using simple XY co-ordinates. Below we have a program that uses a simple formula that enables one to do this.

READY.

```
5 DATA 12,15,22,5,12,25,33
10 PRINT""
20 PI=3.14159265
30 FORA=0 TO 4*PI STEP (4*PI)/39
40 Y=INT(SIN(A)*12+12):X=X+1
50 GOSUB 80
60 NEXT
70 FORA=33568 TO 33574:READ Z:POKEA,Z:NEXT
75 GOT 75
80 POKE((24-Y)*40+32768)+X,46:RETURN
READY.
```

The line that does the actual XY co-ordinate conversion is line 80. For the sake of clarity line 80 has been made a sub-routine but the formula is so compact that in some cases, including this one, it is not necessary. Line 5 and 70 should be included when you test this program out but may be omitted subsequently. X has a range of 0-39 and Y has a range of 0-24.

## INPUTTING

It is worth pointing out that commas and colons act as delimiters in input strings, eg.

10 INPUT A \$ :.? A \$ If this program is run and you type HOWEVER, I THINK the machine will accept HOWEVER and print the error message EXTRA IGNORED. The same will happen if you use the : in similar circumstances. If you wish to include either of these characters in an input statement enclose your typed INPUT in quotes. Many people must have been annoyed by the way BASIC will abort if the return key is pressed when the machine is waiting on an INPUT statement and no data has been typed in.

It is possible to arrange an input statement so that it will never do this. The method is as follows:

(note; → means CURSOR RIGHT and ← means CURSOR LEFT)

10 INPUT " → → \* ← ← ← ";A

When this input statement is encountered the user must type a number in reply, anything other than a number, including no entry at all, will cause the machine to return to the input statement with the appropriate message. Symbols other than \* can be used where required.

## DATA FILE ERRORS

There is a bug in the file handling routine which causes data to be written on the tape prematurely, not allowing for cassette motor start up time.

This is temporarily curable by keeping the motor running whilst the tape buffer is being filled, or by starting the motor when the buffer is almost filled.

The method of turning on the motor is to change a bit in the appropriate PIA register. The location of the PIA register is 59411 and the correct byte to place in that register is 53.

Therefore the syntax for turning on the cassette motor is `P@KE 59411,53`. This should be done either every time `PRINT #` is used or just before the buffer is full. Using the latter method involves PEEKING location 625 which is the buffer pointer. When this pointer approaches 191 which is the size of the buffer, turn on the motor. The relevant locations of bytes for the second cassette port are 59456 and 223 for STOP and 207 for START.

## DATA FILE ERRORS (cont.)

A problem with opening files to write on either built-in cassette #1, or external cassette #2, has been discovered. When a file is opened, garbage will be written out instead of a proper data tape file header. Without this header, it is impossible to open the tape file for reading.

You may not have encountered this problem previously, because it is disguised by having loaded a program on the cassette prior to writing a data file. In this mode, the start address of the buffer with the header information is initialized properly but cassette data file operation still could be random.

Fortunately, there is a software patch you can implement in your BASIC program to force the open for write on tape to work every time.

Before opening to write on #1 cassette:

```
POKE 243,122
POKE 244,2
```

and on #2 cassette:

```
POKE 243,58
POKE 244,3
```

Locations 243 and 244 contain the lo and hi order bytes respectively of the address of the currently active cassette buffer. The start address of buffer #2 is \$33A which is 3,58 (\$3=3, \$3A=58) in double byte decimal. Similarly cassette #1 is \$27A (\$2=2, \$7A=122).

## TAPE HEAD CARE

It has been noted that the READ/WRITE head in the PET cassette deck has the annoying habit of magnetising itself after a remarkably short period of operation. It is in fact possible to partially erase your tapes by up to 15% after only 15 or 20 passes over the head. The most convenient way to deal with this problem is to demagnetise the tape head very frequently, ie every couple of days with a demagnetising cassette. AMPEX market quite a good one for about £3.-

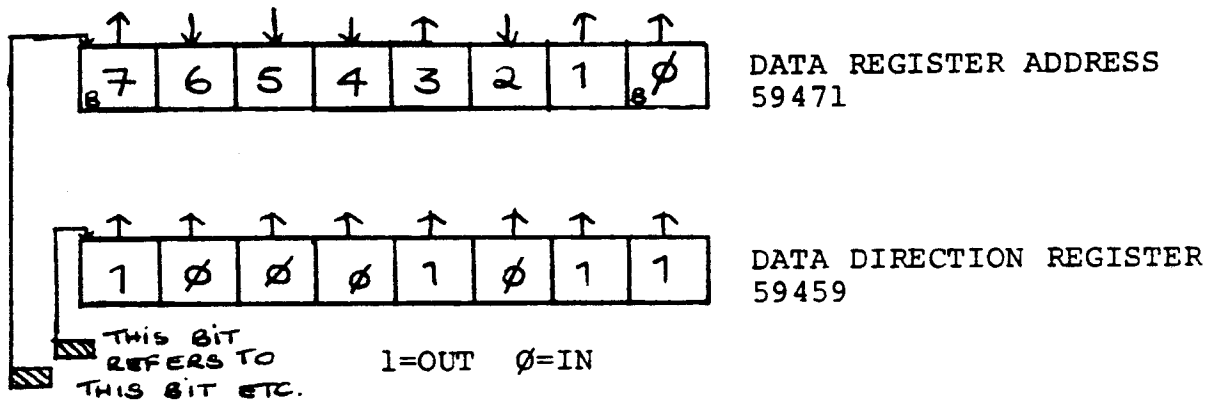


## USEFUL ADDRESSES

On the following page you will find an extensive map of the PET memory. This list is "home" generated and not from CBM U.S. so may contain slight inaccuracies, but all the major buffers and ram areas are correct. Also here are some common PIA addresses and how to use them.

User Port - data register 59424

User Port Data Direction 59426



The major portion of the user port consists of 8 connections at the rear of the PET. Whether these connections are used for INPUT or OUTPUT is up to the programmer. These 8 wires may be used as either input or output. Before using this 8 bit port you must first configure these wires as inputs or outputs. This is done by writing a byte to the data direction register at address 59459. In the example above bits 0, 1, 3 and 7 are configured as outputs. Bits 2, 4, 5 and 6 are configured as inputs. The bit that you see in the data direction register is generated by poke 59459, 139. In order to test a particular bit being used as an input in the data register

#### USEFUL ADDRESSES (CONT.)

(59471) one must peek 59471 and apply a "mask" in order to mask out unwanted bits. For instance to examine bit 2 we would use the expression PRINT PEEK (59471) AND 4. If the result of this expression is 0 then bit 2 of the data register (59471) has been held at 0 volts by the outside world.

# PET MEMORY MAP

0000-0002	JUMP, USER ADDRESS
0005	CURSOR COLUMN
000A-005A	BASIC INPUT BUFFER
005C	BASIC INPUT BUFFER POINTER
005E	CURRENT RESULT TYPE (FF) STRING (00) NUMERIC
005F	" " (80) INTEGER(00) FLOATING POINT
007A-007B	START OF BASIC STATEMENTS
007C-007D	START OF VARIABLE TABLE
007E-007F	END OF VARIABLE TABLE
0080-0081	START OF AVAILABLE SPACE
0082-0083	BOTTOM OF STRINGS (MOVING DOWN)
0084-0085	TOP OF STRINGS (MOVING DOWN)
0086-0087	TOP OF MEMORY ALLOCATED FOR BASIC WORKING AREA
0088-0089	CURRENT PROGRAM LINE NUMBER
008A-0088	" " " SAVED BY END
008C-008D	" " POINTER SAVED BY END
0092-0093	DATA STATEMENT POINTER
0094-0095	CURRENT VARIABLE SYMBOLS
0096-0097	CURRENT VARIABLE STARTING POINT
00AE-00AF	POINTER ASSOCIATED WITH BASIC BUFF TRANSFER
0080	EXPONENT + S80 )
0081	MANTISSA MSB )
0082	" ) -- (FLOATING POINT ACCUMULATOR)
0083	" )
0084	LSB )
0085	SIGN OF MANTISSA (0 IF ZERO) (+ IF POS.) (- IF NEG.)
0088-00C0	DYADIC HOLDING AREA
0002-	START OF ROUTINE FOR FETCHING NEXT BASIC CHARACTER
00C9-00CA	PROGRAM POINTER
-00D9	END OF CHARACTER FETCH
00E0-	SCREEN POSITION ON LINE
00E1-00E2	POSITION OF LINE START
00E3-00E4	CURRENT TAPE BUFFER POINTER
00E5-00E6	END OF CURRENT PROGRAM
00EA	QUOTE MODE (00 IF NOT IN QUOTE)
00EE	NUMBER OF CHARACTERS IN FILE NAME

00EF	GPIB FILE#
00F0	GPIB COMMAND
00F1	GPIB DEVICE#
00F3-00F4	START OF TAPE BUFFER
00F5	CURRENT SCREEN LINE#
00F6	RUNNING CHECKSUM OF BUFFER
00F7-00F8	POINTER TO PROGRAM DURING VERIFY, LOAD
00F9-00FA	FILENAME STARTING POINTER
00FC	SERIAL WORD
00FD	NUMBER OF BLOCKS REMAINING TO WRITE
00FE	SERIAL WORD BUFFER
00FF-1FF	BASIC STACK ETC.
0200-0202	CLOCK H.M.S.
0203	MATRIX COORDINATE OF LAST KEY DOWN (255 IF NONE)
0204	SHIFT KEY STATUS (1 IF DOWN)
0205-0206	JIFFY CLOCK
0207	CASSETTE 1 ON SWITCH
0208	CASSETTE 2 ON SWITCH
0209	KEYSWITCH PIA
020B	LOAD 0, VERIFY 1
020C	STATUS
020D	NUMBER OF CHR IN KBD BUFFER
020E-0216	KYBD INPUT BUFFER
0219-021A	HARDWARE INTERRUPT VECTOR
021B-021C	BREAD INTERRUPT VECTOR
0223	KEY IMAGE
0225	CURSOR TIMING
0228	TAPE WRITE
0242-024B	LOGICAL NUMBERS OF OPEN FILES
024C-0255	DEVICE NUMBERS OF OPEN FILES
0256-025F	R/W MODES OF OPEN FILES (COMMAND TABLE)
0262	GPIB TABLE LENGTH
0265	PARITY
0268	POINTER IN FILENAME TRANSFER
026C	SERIAL BIT COUNT
0270	TAPE WRITE COUNTDOWN
0273	LEADER COUNTER

0275	Ø IF FIRST HALF BYTE MARKER NOT WRITTEN
0276	Ø IF SECOND " " " "
0279	CHECKSUM WORKING WORD
027A-0339	BUFFER FOR CASSETTE #1
033A-03F9	" " " " #2
0400	START OF BASIC STATEMENTS
-1FFF	END OF AVAILABLE RAM (8K VERSION)
-7FFF	END OF AVAILABLE RAM EXPANSION
8000-8FFF	VIDEO RAM
9000-BFFF	AVAILABLE ROM EXPANSION AREA
C000-E0B0	MICROSOFT "8K" BASIC
E085-E27D	SYSTEM SET UP
E294-E66A	VIDEO DRIVER
E66B-E684	INTERRUPT HANDLER
E685-E75B	CLOCK UPDATE, KYBD SCAN (60HZ INT.)
E75C-E7D4	KYBD ENCODING TABLE
E800-EFFF	PIA'S
F086-F226	PIB HANDLER
F346-F82C	FILE CONTROL
F82D-Fd15	TAPE CONTROL
FD38-FFB2	DIAGNOSTICS
FFC0-FFED	JUMP VECTORS
FFFA-FFFF	6502 INTERRUPT VECTORS (NMI NOT USED IN ORIG. VERSIONS)

## MACHINE CODE ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to write machine code programs in your PET and do not wish to have BASIC trampling all over them here is a suggestion:

When the PET is first powered up a test pattern is written into and read back from the RAM in ascending address order. When this routine discovers a location which does not read back properly it presumes that it has run out of RAM and displays XXXX bytes free. At this point it makes a note of where it thinks the 'top of memory' is.. A quick glance at the memory map will show that BASIC program text is stored from location 1025 upwards and strings are stored from the top of the memory downwards which means that in any normal circumstances there is nowhere in the PET main memory where you can hide your machine code routines.

If however, the first thing you do after powering up the PET is to alter the top of memory pointer to say 6000 everything from 6001 upwards, as far as PET is concerned, does not exist. e.g. strings will be stored from 6000 downwards etc. and machine code programs can be safely put in location 6001 upwards. This pointer is held in locations 134 and 135 constituting a 16 bit pointer with 134 being its lower 8 bits. This is a binary pointer which means that we must convert your 6000 or whatever to binary before POKING locations 134 and 135 with the information. In the standard 8K PET 134 will be 0 and 135

MACHINE CODE ENVIRONMENT (cont.)

will be 32 ( $32 \times 256 = 8192$ ) Remember that 1025 bytes are used for house keeping by the PET ( $8192 - 1025 = 7167$ ) However to give the PET a ceiling of 6000 we convert 6000 into binary which gives us POKE 134, 112 and POKE 135, 23.

## LIFE FOR YOUR PET

Here is a good example of what can be done in machine code in the PET. It is the game of "LIFE" by John H. Conway of Cambridge. If one attempts to write a Commodore PET screen size (1000 cell) version of LIFE in BASIC it can take up to two or three minutes per generation. This program performs two generations per second. In order to use it type in a listing in the form of data statements and load in the machine code with a small BASIC routine being careful to fill in the gaps between 1928 (HEX) and 1930 and also 1954 and 1970 with no-ops. Below is a listing of the documentation provided by the author.



## LIFE FOR YOUR PET

Since this is the first time I have attempted to set down a machine language program for the public eye, I will attempt to be as complete as practical without overdoing it.

The programs I will document here are concerned with the game of "LIFE", and are written in 6502 machine language specifically for the PET 2001 (8K version). The principles apply to any 6502 system with graphic display capability, and can be debugged (as I did) on non-graphic systems such as the KIM-1.

The first I heard of LIFE was in Martin Gardner's "Recreational Mathematics" section in Scientific American, Oct-Nov 1970; Feb. 1971. As I understand it, the game was invented by John H. Conway, an English mathematician. In brief, LIFE is a "cellular automation" scheme, where the arena is a rectangular grid (ideally of infinite size). Each square in the grid is either occupied or unoccupied with "seeds", the fate of which are governed by relatively simple rules, i.e., the "facts of LIFE". The rules are: 1. A seed survives to the next generation if and only if it has two or three neighbors (right, left, up, down, and the four diagonally adjacent cells) otherwise it dies of loneliness or overcrowding, as the case may be. 2. A seed is born in a vacant cell on the next generation if it has exactly 3 neighbors.

With these simple rules, a surprisingly rich game results. The original Scientific American article, and several subsequent articles reveal many curious and surprising initial patterns and results. I understand that there even has been formed a LIFE group, complete with newsletter, although I have not personally seen it.

The game can of course be played manually on a piece of graph paper, but it is slow and prone to mistakes, which have usually disastrous effects on the final results. It would seem to be the ideal thing to put to a microprocessor with bare-bones graphics, since the rules are so simple and there are es-

entially no arithmetic operations involved, except for keeping track of addresses and locating neighbors.

As you know, the PET-2001 has an excellent BASIC interpreter, but as yet very little documentation on machine language operation. My first stab was to write a BASIC program, using the entire PET display as the arena (more about boundaries later), and the filled circle graphic display character as the seed. This worked just fine, except for one thing - it took about 2-1/2 minutes for the interpreter to go through one generation! I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised since the program has to check eight neighboring cells to determine the fate of a particular cell, and do this 1000 times to complete the entire generation (40x25 characters for the PET display).

The program following is a 6502 version of LIFE written for the PET. It needs to be POKE'd into the PET memory, since I have yet to see or discover a machine language monitor for the PET. I did it with a simple BASIC program and many DATA statements (taking up much more of the program memory space than the actual machine language program!). A routine for assembling, and saving on tape machine language programs on the PET is sorely needed.

The program is accessed by the SYS command, and takes advantage of the display monitor (cursor control) for inserting seeds, and clearing the arena. Without a serious attempt at maximizing for speed, the program takes about 1/2 second to go through an entire generation, about 300 times faster than the BASIC equivalent! Enough said about the efficiency of machine language programming versus BASIC interpreters?

BASIC is great for number crunching, where you can quickly compose your program and have plenty of time to await the results.

The program may be broken down into manageable chunks by subroutines. There follows a brief description of the salient features of each section:

In a fit of overcaution (since this was the first time I attempted to write a PET machine language program) you will notice the series of pushes at the beginning and pulls at the end. I decided to save all the internal registers on the stack in page 1, and also included the CLD (clear decimal mode) just in case. Then follows a series of subroutine calls to do the LIFE generation and display transfers. The zero page location, TIMES, is a counter to permit several loops through LIFE before returning. As set up, TIMES is initialized to zero (hex location 1953) so that it will loop 256 times before jumping back. This of course can be changed either initially or while in BASIC via the POKE command. The return via the JMP BASIC (4C 8B C3) may not be strictly orthodox, but it seems to work all right.

INIT (hex 1930) and DATA (hex 193B)

This shorty reads in the constants needed, and stores them in page zero. SCR refers to the PET screen, TEMP is a temporary working area to hold the new generation as it is evolved, and RCS is essentially a copy of the PET screen data, which I found to be necessary to avoid "snow" on the screen during read/write operations directly on the screen locations. Up, down, etc. are the offsets to be added or subtracted from an address to get all the neighbor addresses. The observant reader will note the gap in the addresses between some of the routines.

TMPSCR (hex 1970)

This subroutine quickly transfers the contents of Temp and dumps it to the screen, using a dot (81 dec) symbol for a live cell (a 1 in TEMP) and a space (32 dec) for the absence of a live cell (a 0 in TEMP).

SCRIMP (hex 198A)

This is the inverse of TMPSCR, quickly transferring (and encoding) data from the screen into TEMP.

RSTORE (hex 19A6)

This subroutine fetches the initial addresses (high and low) for the SCR, TEMP, and RCS memory spaces.

Since we are dealing with 1000 bytes of data, we need a routine to increment to the next location, check for page crossing (adding 1 to the high address when it occurs), and checking for the end. The end is signaled by returning a 01 in the accumulator, otherwise a 00 is returned via the accumulator.

TMPRCS (hex 19E6)

The RCS address space is a copy of the screen, used as mentioned before to avoid constant "snow" on the screen if the screen were being continually accessed. This subroutine dumps data from TEMP, where the new generation has been computed, to RCS.

GENER (hex 1A00)

We finally arrive at a subroutine where LIFE is actually generated. After finding out the number of neighbors of the current RCS data byte from NBRS, GENER checks for births (CMPIM \$03 at hex addr. 1A0E) if the cell was previously unoccupied. If a birth does not occur, there is an immediate branch to GENADR (the data byte remains 00). If the cell was occupied (CMPIM 81 dec at hex 1A08), OCC checks for survival (CMPIM \$03 at hex 1A1A and CMPIM \$02 at hex 1A1E), branching to GENADR when these two conditions are met, otherwise the cell dies (LDAIM \$00 at hex 1A22). The results are stored in TEMP for the 1000 cells.

NBRS (hex 1A2F)

NBRS is the subroutine that really does most of the work and where most of the speed could be gained by more efficient programming. Its job, to find the total number of occupied neighbors of a given RCS data location, is complicated by page crossing and edge boundaries. In the present version, page crossing is taken care of, but edge boundaries (left, right, top, and bottom of the screen) are somewhat "strange". Above the top line and below the bottom line are considered as sort of forbidden regions where there should practically always be no "life" (data in those regions are not defined by the program, but I have found that there has never been a case where 81's have been present (all other data is considered as "unoccupied" characters). The right and left edges are different, however,

and lead to a special type of "geometry". A cell at either edge is not considered as special by NBRS, and so to the right of a right-edge location is the next sequential address. On the screen this is really the left edge location, and one line lower. The inverse is true, of course for left addresses of left-edge locations. Topologically, this is equivalent to a "helix". No special effects of this are seen during a simple LIFE evolution since it just gives the impression of disappearing off one edge while appearing on the other edge. For an object like the "spaceship" (see Scientific American articles), then, the path eventually would cover the whole LIFE arena. The fun comes in when a configuration spreads out so much that it spills over both edges, and interacts with itself. This, of course cannot happen in an infinite universe, so that some of the more complex patterns will not have the same fate in the present version of LIFE. Most of the "blinkers", including the "glider gun" come out OK.

This 40x25 version of LIFE can undoubtedly be made more efficient, and other edge algorithms could be found, but I chose to leave it in its original form as a benchmark for my first successfully executed program in writing machine

language on the PET. One confession, however - I used the KIM-1 to debug most of the subroutines. Almost all of them did not run on the first shot! Without a good understanding of PET memory allocation particularly in page zero, I was bound to crash many times over, with no recovery other than pulling the plug. The actual BASIC program consisted of a POKING loop with many DATA statements (always save on tape before running!).

### A Brief Introduction to the Game of Life

One of the interesting properties of the game of LIFE is that such simple rules can lead to such complex activity. The simplicity comes from the fact that the rules apply to each individual cell. The complexity comes from the interactions between the individual cells. Each individual cell is affected by its eight adjacent neighbors, and nothing else.

The rules are:

1. A cell survives if it has two or three neighbors.

2. A cell dies from overcrowding if it has four or more neighbors. It dies from isolation if it has one or zero neighbors.

3. A cell is born when an empty space has exactly three neighbors.

With these few rules, many different types of activity can occur. Some patterns are STABLE, that is they do not change at all. Some are REPEATERS, patterns which undergo one or more changes and return to the original pattern. A REPEATER may repeat as fast as every other generation, or may have a longer period. A GLIDER is a pattern which moves as it repeats.

### REPEATERS

#### STABLE

```

  *
* *  * *  * *  *
* *  * *  * *  *
  *

```

```

  * *      *
  * *      * *
* *      * *
* *      *

```

#### GLIDERS

```

                                     *
                                     *
                                     *
* * * * *

```

1900	LIFE	ORG	\$1900	
1900	BASIC	*	\$C38B	RETURN TO BASIC ADDRESS
1900	OFFSET	*	\$002A	PAGE ZERO DATA AREA POINTER
1900	DOT	*	\$0051	DOT SYMBOL = 81 DECIMAL
1900	BLANK	*	\$0020	BLANK SYMBOL = 32 DECIMAL
1900	SCRL	*	\$0020	PAGE ZERO LOCATIONS
1900	SCRH	*	\$0021	
1900	CHL	*	\$0022	
1900	CHH	*	\$0023	
1900	SCRLO	*	\$0024	
1900	SCRHO	*	\$0025	
1900	TEMPL	*	\$0026	
1900	TEMPH	*	\$0027	
1900	TEMPLO	*	\$0028	
1900	TEMPHO	*	\$0029	
1900	UP	*	\$002A	
1900	DOWN	*	\$002B	
1900	RIGHT	*	\$002C	
1900	LEFT	*	\$002D	
1900	UR	*	\$002E	
1900	UL	*	\$002F	
1900	LR	*	\$0030	
1900	LL	*	\$0031	
1900	N	*	\$0032	
1900	SCRLL	*	\$0033	
1900	SCR LH	*	\$0034	
1900	RCSLO	*	\$0035	
1900	RCSHO	*	\$0036	
1900	TMP	*	\$0037	
1900	TIMES	*	\$0038	
1900	RCSL	*	\$0039	
1900	RCSH	*	\$003A	
1900 08	MAIN	PHP		SAVE EVERYTHING
1901 48		PHA		ON STACK
1902 8A		TXA		
1903 48		PHA		
1904 98		TYA		
1905 48		PHA		
1906 BA		TSX		
1907 8A		TXA		
1908 48		PHA		
1909 D8		CLD		CLEAR DECIMAL MODE
190A 20 30 19		JSR	INIT	
190D 20 8A 19		JSR	SCR TMP	
1910 20 E6 19	GEN	JSR	TM PRCS	
1913 20 00 1A		JSR	GENER	
1916 20 70 19		JSR	TM PSCR	
1919 E6 38		INCZ	TIMES	REPEAT 255 TIMES
191B D0 F3		BNE	GEN	BEFORE QUITTING
191D 68		PLA		RESTORE EVERYTHING
191E AA		TAX		
191F 9A		TXS		
1920 68		PLA		

1921	A8		TAY	
1922	68		PLA	
1923	AA		TAX	
1924	68		PLA	
1925	28		PLP	
1926	4C	8B C3	JMP	BASIC RETURN TO BASIC
1930			ORG	\$1930

MOVE VALUES INTO PAGE ZERO

1930	A2	19	INIT	LDXIM \$19	MOVE 25. VALUES
1932	BD	3A 19	LOAD	LDAX DATA	-01
1935	95	1F		STAZX \$1F	STORE IN PAGE ZERO
1937	CA			DEX	
1938	D0	F8		BNE LOAD	
193A	60			RTS	

193B	00	DATA	=	\$00	SCRL
193C	80		=	\$80	SCRH
193D	00		=	\$00	CHL
193E	15		=	\$15	CHH
193F	00		=	\$00	SCRLO
1940	80		=	\$80	SCRHO
1941	00		=	\$00	TEMPL
1942	1B		=	\$1B	TEMPH
1943	00		=	\$00	TEMPLO
1944	1B		=	\$1B	TEMPHO
1945	D7		=	\$D7	UP
1946	28		=	\$28	DOWN
1947	01		=	\$01	RIGHT
1948	FE		=	\$FE	LEFT
1949	D8		=	\$D8	UR
194A	D6		=	\$D6	UL
194B	29		=	\$29	LR
194C	27		=	\$27	LL
194D	00		=	\$00	N
194E	E8		=	\$E8	SCRLL
194F	83		=	\$83	SCR LH
1950	00		=	\$00	RCSLO
1951	15		=	\$15	RCSHO
1952	00		=	\$00	TMP
1953	00		=	\$00	TIMES

1970			ORG	\$1970
------	--	--	-----	--------

1970	20	A6 19	TMPSCR JSR	RSTORE	GET INIT ADDRESSES
1973	B1	26	TSLOAD LDAIY	TEMPL	FETCH BYTE FROM TEMP
1975	D0	06	BNE	TSONE	BRANCH IF NOT ZERO
1977	A9	20	LDAIM	BLANK	BLANK SYMBOL
1979	91	20	STAIY	SCRL	DUMP IT TO SCREEN
197B	D0	04	BNE	TSNEXT	
197D	A9	51	TSONE LDAIM	DOT	DOT SYMBOL
197F	91	20	STAIY	SCRL	DUMP IT TO SCREEN
1981	20	BD 19	TSNEXT JSR	NXTADR	FETCH NEXT ADDRESS
1984	F0	ED	BEQ	TSLOAD	

```

1986 20 A6 19      JSR  RSTORE  RESTORE INIT ADDRESSES
1989 60            RTS

198A 20 A6 19  SCRTMP JSR  RSTORE  GET INIT ADDRESSES
198D B1 20      STLOAD LDAIY SCRL  READ DATA FROM SCREEN
198F C9 51      CMPIM DOT   TEST FOR DOT
1991 F0 06      BEQ  STONE  BRANCH IF DOT
1993 A9 00      LDAIM $00   OTHERWISE ITS A BLANK
1995 91 26      STAIY TEMPL STORE IT
1997 F0 04      BEQ  STNEXT UNCOND. BRANCH
1999 A9 01      STONE LDAIM $01 A DOT WAS FOUND
199B 91 26      STAIY TEMPL STORE IT
199D 20 BD 19  STNEXT JSR  NXTADR  FETCH NEXT ADDRESS
19A0 F0 EB      BEQ  STLOAD
19A2 20 A6 19  JSR  RSTORE  RESTORE INIT ADDRESSES
19A5 60            RTS

19A6 A9 00      RSTORE LDAIM $00   ZERO A, X, Y
19A8 AA          TAX
19A9 A8          TAY
19AA 85 20      STAZ  SCRL  INIT VALUES
19AC 85 26      STAZ  TEMPL
19AE 85 39      STAZ  RCSL
19B0 A5 25      LDAZ  SCRHO
19B2 85 21      STAZ  SCRH
19B4 A5 29      LDAZ  TEMPHO
19B6 85 27      STAZ  TEMPH
19B8 A5 36      LDAZ  RCSHO
19BA 85 3A      STAZ  RCSH
19BC 60            RTS

19BD E6 26      NXTADR INCZ  TEMPL  GET NEXT LOW ORDER
19BF E6 20      INCZ  SCRL  BYTE ADDRESS
19C1 E6 39      INCZ  RCSL
19C3 E8          INX
19C4 E4 33      CPXZ  SCRL  IS IT THE LAST?
19C6 F0 0C      BEQ  PAGECH IS IT THE LAST PAGE?
19C8 E0 00      CPXIM $00   IS IT A PAGE BOUNDARY?
19CA D0 0E      BNE  NALOAD IF NOT, THEN NOT DONE
19CC E6 27      INCZ  TEMPH OTHERWISE ADVANCE TO
19CE E6 21      INCZ  SCRH  NEXT PAGE
19D0 E6 3A      INCZ  RCSH
19D2 D0 06      BNE  NALOAD UNCONDITIONAL BRANCH
19D4 A5 34      PAGECH LDAZ  SCRLH CHECK FOR LAST PAGE
19D6 C5 21      CMPZ  SCRH
19D8 F0 03      BEQ  NADONE IF YES, THEN DONE
19DA A9 00      NALOAD LDAIM $00   RETURN WITH A=0
19DC 60            RTS
19DD A9 01      NADONE LDAIM $01   RETURN WITH A=1
19DF 60            RTS

19E6            ORG  $19E6

19E6 20 A6 19  TMPRCS JSR  RSTORE  INIT ADDRESSES
19E9 B1 26      TRLOAD LDAIY TEMPL  FETCH DATA FROM TEMPL
19EB D0 06      BNE  TRONE  IF NOT ZERO THEN ITS ALIVE

```

19ED	A9	20		LDAIM	BLANK	BLANK SYMBOL
19EF	91	39		STAIY	RCSL	STORE IT IN SCREEN COPY
19F1	D0	04		BNE	NEWADR	THEN ON TO A NEW ADDRESS
19F3	A9	51	TRONE	LDAIM	DOT	THE DOT SYMBOL
19F5	91	39		STAIY	RCSL	STORE IT IN SCREEN COPY
19F7	20	BD	19 NEWADR	JSR	NXTADR	FETCH NEXT ADDRESS
19FA	F0	ED		BEQ	TRLOAD	IF A=0, THEN NOT DONE
19FC	20	A6	19	JSR	RSTORE	ELSE DONE. RESTORE
19FF	60			RTS		
1A00	20	A6	19 GENER	JSR	RSTORE	INIT ADDRESSES
1A03	20	2F	1A AGAIN	JSR	NBRS	FETCH NUMBER OF NEIGHBORS
1A06	B1	39		LDAIY	RCSL	FETCH CURRENT DATA
1A08	C9	51		CMPIM	DOT	IS IT A DOT?
1A0A	F0	0C		BEQ	OCC	IF YES, THEN BRANCH
1A0C	A5	32		LDAZ	N	OTHERWISE ITS BLANK
1A0E	C9	03		CMPIM	\$03	SO WE CHECK FOR
1A10	D0	14		BNE	GENADR	A BIRTH
1A12	A9	01	BIRTH	LDAIM	\$01	IT GIVES BIRTH
1A14	91	26		STAIY	TEMPL	STORE IT IN TEMP
1A16	D0	0E		BNE	GENADR	INCONDITIONAL BRANCH
1A18	A5	32	OCC	LDAZ	N	FETCH NUMBER OF NEIGHBORS
1A1A	C9	03		CMPIM	\$03	IF IT HAS 3 OR 2
1A1C	F0	08		BEQ	GENADR	NEIGHBORS IT SURVIVES
1A1E	C9	02		CMPIM	\$02	
1A20	F0	04		BEQ	GENADR	
1A22	A9	00	DEATH	LDAIM	\$00	IT DIED!
1A24	91	26		STAIY	TEMPL	STORE IT IN TEMP
1A26	20	BD	19 GENADR	JSR	NXTADR	FETCH NEXT ADDRESS
1A29	F0	D8		BEQ	AGAIN	IF 0, THEN NOT DONE
1A2B	20	A6	19	JSR	RSTORE	RESTORE INIT ADDRESSES
1A2E	60			RTS		
1A2F	98		NBRS	TYA		SAVE Y AND X ON STACK
1A30	48			PHA		
1A31	8A			TXA		
1A32	48			PHA		
1A33	A0	00		LDYIM	\$00	SET Y AND N = 0
1A35	84	32		STYZ	N	
1A37	A2	08		LDXIM	\$08	CHECK 8 NEIGHBORS
1A39	B5	29	OFFS	LDAZX	OFFSET	-01
1A3B	10	15		BPL	ADD	ADD IF OFFSET IS POSITIVE
1A3D	49	FF		EORIM	\$FF	OTHERWISE GET SET TO
1A3F	85	37		STAZ	TMP	SUBTRACT
1A41	38			SEC		SET CARRY BIT FOR SUBTRACT
1A42	A5	39		LDAZ	RCSL	
1A44	E5	37		SBCZ	TMP	SUBTRACT TO GET THE
1A46	85	22		STAZ	CHL	CORRECT NEIGHBOR ADDRESS
1A48	A5	3A		LDAZ	RCSH	
1A4A	85	23		STAZ	CHH	
1A4C	B0	11		BCS	EXAM	OK, FIND OUT WHAT'S THERE
1A4E	C6	23		DECZ	CHH	PAGE CROSS
1A50	D0	0D		BNE	EXAM	UNCOND. BRANCH
1A52	18		ADD	CLC		GET SET TO ADD
1A53	65	39		ADCZ	RCSL	ADD
1A55	85	22		STAZ	CHL	STORE THE LOW PART

1A57 A5 3A		LDAZ	RCSH	FETCH THE HIGH PART
1A59 85 23		STAZ	CHH	
1A5B 90 02		BCC	EXAM	OK, WHAT'S THERE
1A5D E6 23		INCZ	CHH	PAGE CROSSING
1A5F B1 22	EXAM	LDAIY	CHL	FETCH THE NEIGHBOR
1A61 C9 51		CMPIM	DOT	DATA BYTE AND SEE IF ITS
1A63 D0 02		BNE	NEXT	OCCUPIED
1A65 E6 32		INCZ	N	ACCUMULATE NUMBER OF NEIGHBORS
1A67 CA	NEXT	DEX		
1A68 D0 CF		BNE	OFFS	NOT DONE
1A6A 68		PLA		RESTORE X, Y FROM STACK
1A6B AA		TAX		
1A6C 68		PLA		
1A6D A8		TAY		
1A6E 60		RTS		

This program was prepared by:

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### LIFE FOR YOUR PET (cont.)

Below we have a way of actually getting our HEX OP-CODES into the PET. Lines 100-200 read the data statements convert them to decimal and POKE them sequentially into the memory. The first data item is expected to be the starting point of the loading in decimal and the last data item is expected to be an asterix. The beauty of this method is that you can use the screen edit facility on the PET for inserting and deleting codes. When you have inserted your own data statements from line 300 upwards, save the entire performance prior to running as machine language routines rarely work first time around and the PET is quite likely to hang up and need turning off and on. The data statements in the example are for the game of LIFE. In the original version listed on the previous pages, 256 generations must occur before the control returns to BASIC. I have modified the program slightly in the beginning in order to allow the stop button to halt the binary routine. If you think you have loaded the following program correctly type RUN and press RETURN. This loads the binary program. When the machine prints READY, clear the screen. Type say eight shifted Qs in a row in the middle of the screen followed by SYS (6400) (which is 1900H in decimal) and press return. GOOD LUCK!

```

100 READL
110 READ A$:C=LEN(A$):IFA$="*"THENEND
120 IFC<10RC>2THEN200
130 A=ASC(A$)-48:B=ASC(RIGHT$(A$,1))-48
140 N=B+7*(B>9)-(C=2)*(16*(A+7*(A>9)))
150 IFN<0ORN>255THEN200
160 POKEL,N:L=L+1:GOTO110
200 PRINT"BYTE"L=["A$"] ???":END
300 DATA6400
310 DATA 00,48,8A,48,98,48,8A,8A,48,D8,20,30,19,20,8A,19,20,E6,19,20,00,1A
320 DATA20,70,19,A9,FF,CD,12,E8,F0,F0,4C,8B,C3,AA,68,28,4C,8B,C3
330 DATA EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,A2,19,BD,3A,19,95,1F,CA,D0,F8,60,00,80,00,15,00
340 DATA80,00,1B,00,1B,D7,28,01,FE,D8,D6,29,27,00,E8,83,00,15,00,00
350 DATAEA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA
360 DATAEA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,20,A6,19,B1,26,D0,06,A9,20,91,20,D0,04,A9,51,91,20,20
370 DATA BD,19,F0,ED,20,A6,19,60,20,A6,19,B1,20,C9,51,F0,06,A9,00,91,26,F0
380 DATA04,A9,01,91,26,20,BD,19,F0,EB,20,A6,19,60,A9,00,AA,A8,85,20,85,26,85
390 DATA39,A5,25,85,21,A5,29,85,27,A5,36,85,3A,60,E6,26,E6,20,E6,39,E8,E4
400 DATA33,F0,0C,E0,00,D0,0E,E6,27,E6,21,E6,3A,D0,06,A5,34,C5,21,F0,03,A9,00
410 DATA 60,A9,01,60,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,EA,20,A6,19,B1,26,D0,06,A9,20,91,39,D0
420 DATA04,A9,51,91,39,20,BD,19,F0,ED,20,A6,19,60,20,A6,19,20,2F,1A,B1,39,C9
430 DATA51,F0,0C,A5,32,C9,03,D0,14,A9,01,91,26,D0,0E,A5,32,C9,03,F0,08,C9,02
440 DATAF0,04,A9,00,91,26,20,BD,19,F0,D8,20,A6,19,60,98,48,8A,48,A0,00,84,32
450 DATAA2,08,85,29,10,15,49,FF,85,37,38,A5,39,E5,37,85,22,A5,3A,85,23,B0,11
460 DATAC6,23,D0,0D,18,65,39,85,22,A5,3A,85,23,90,02,E6,23,B1,22,C9,51,D0,02
470 DATAE6,32,CA,D0,CF,68,AA,68,A8,60,*
READY.

```

## YOUR LETTERS

M.P. Glynne (B.Sc) of Tarn Cottage, Tarn Lane, Shadwell, Leeds wrote in to say:

Othello Program for P.E.T. - there is a bug in the above which has the following effect; the computer forfeits moves when, in fact, it has legal moves available.

This arises because statements 1215 and 1220 assign a negative weighted value of -1 to locations 2D, 2E, 4B, 4G, 5B, 5G, 7D, 7E and -2 to 2B, 2G, 7B, 7G.

If Sub 2820 identifies only one piece to capture then at statement 1200  $S1 = 1$ . After weighting  $S1$  will be assigned 0 or -1. Taking the '0' case, then  $B1$  will be assigned  $S1 = 0$  (statement 1340) and then 1410 will not be true, and 1430 "I have to forfeit my move", will result.

To rectify this completely for both the -1 and the -2 weighted cases the following amendment will be necessary:-

Statement 1000 ' $B1 = -1$ ' to be amended to ' $B1 = -2$ ;

Statement 1410 to be amended to 'If  $B1 = -1$  then 1480

Mr. J. Smith of 38 Claremont Crescent, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 3QR

wrote in: The error in the definition of arc cos X should, I feel, be corrected. A possible version is:- (\*)

$$\text{ACS } X = \text{ATN}(\text{SQR}(1-X^2)/X) + (1-\text{SGN}(X)) * \pi / 2$$

this correctly gives (unless  $X=0$ ) arc cos (-0.5) as

Cont/...

YOUR LETTERS (cont.)

$2\pi/3$  ( $120^\circ$ ) ; your formula gives

$\arccos(-0.5)$  as  $-60^\circ$  this would be incorrect  
in e.g. a "cosine rule" problem.

As you expect PET to be used in educational establishments for solving trig. problems, I think it important to put this right.

(\*) Note that if X is negative

$$1 - \text{SGN}(X) = 2$$

& if X is positive

$$1 - \text{SGN}(X) = 0$$

this ensures that a correct multiple of  $\pi$  is added to the arctangent. Also, would it not be better to suggest..

$$P = 180/\pi \quad (\text{before FNS is used})$$

$$\text{DEFFNS}(V) = \text{SIN}(V/P) \quad \text{etc.}$$

for the user defined functions?

HERE ARE SOME COMMENTS FROM MR. M.J. SMYTH who is the Senior Lecturer, Department of Astronomy, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh EH9 3HJ.

Using BASIC and the IEEE 488 bus, PET can input 40 numbers per second from a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  digit voltmeter (Hewlett Packard 3437A). Also using BASIC, the user port can generate an output trigger (e.g. to a measuring device)

YOUR LETTERS (cont.)

within about 10 ms of an input trigger. We have not yet tried using assembler. But the BASIC speeds make possible very interesting applications in equipment control and real-time data processing.

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